

**LEWIS G  
WATKINS  
DETACHMENT**



**DETACHMENT  
OFFICERS**

**Commandant**  
**Robert Walker**  
**(864) 884-3532**

**Sr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Morris Carver**  
**(864) 882-2277**

**Jr. Vice-Commandant**  
**Steve Slagle**  
**(864) 710-6739**

**Judge Advocate**  
**Bill Thompson**  
**(678) 296-6131**

**Past Commandant**  
**Skip Wakeman**  
**(678) 300-4272**

**Paymaster**  
**David Wessinger**  
**(864) 882-5538**

**Adjutant**  
**Del Williams**  
**(864) 903-2160**

**Chaplain**  
**Del Williams**  
**(864) 903-2160**

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**Charlie Brickett**  
**864-557-0983**

**Historian**

**Detachment #1131  
website is:**

***mcl1131.org***

# Tip of the Spear

VOLUME X

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021



## Commandant's Corner

Fellow Marines

As we start off the new year it looks very promising to be a good one.

The Covid-19 shots are available now and I encourage everyone to get their's ASAP so we can get back to normal.

It is every one's job to be a recruiter. If you know of any one that is a prospect for membership please let Steve know so they may be contacted. Both for an associate and a regular membership.

March the 25<sup>th</sup> we will be having the Medal of Honor at 11:00 AM at the Veterans Memorial in Walhalla, South Carolina. We need everyone to attend to make a good showing. Masks are required and social distancing is a must. If you need a ride please call and we will get you there.

Elections will be here soon so if you want to hold an office please contact Morris Carver. Remember nominations will be taken from the floor.

God bless and stay safe.

Semper Fi,

*Robert Walker*

## Up Coming Events

**Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 Business Meeting** is scheduled for 6:30 PM **Tuesday February 16, 2021** at the American Legion Hut, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Trustee's Meeting.** Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 Trustees will meet at 8:00 AM on **Tuesday March 2, 2021** at the American Legion Hut, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 Business Meeting** is scheduled for 6:30 PM **Tuesday March 16, 2021** at the American Legion Hut, 575 N. Fairplay Street, Seneca, SC 29678

**Medal of Honor Day.** Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #1131 will honor SSGT Lewis G. Watkins on **Thursday, March 25, 2021**. Ceremony will be at 11:00 A.M. at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Oconee County Court House in Walhalla, SC. Please arrive at 10:00 A.M. for set up and rehearsal. Uniform is Red Blazer.



**Morris Carver**  
**Senior**  
**Vice-Commandant**

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee, I am proud to present a list off the members of Detachment that have been selected by the committee and all have agreed to serve if elected.

Commandant: Robert Walker  
Senior Vice Commandant: Steve Slagle  
Junior Vice Commandant: "Skip" Wakeman  
Judge Advocate: Bill Thompson

On the night of the election, Tuesday April 20, 2021 others nominations will be taken from the floor.

*Morris Carver*



**Steve Slagle**  
**Junior**  
**Vice-Commandant**  
**Recruiting Prospective**  
**Members for Our De-**  
**tachment**

Our Detachment relies on its members to offer and conduct activities like the annual Toys for Tots campaign, provide full military honors for fallen Oconee County Marines, maintaining Marine veteran gravesites in Oconee County, participating in community Christmas parades, and maintaining traditions such as hosting the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

With our current membership, we're often challenged to find member volunteers to help with these projects. Quite frankly, during the past few months we've relied on just a third or fewer of our members who have stepped up to help maintain the Detachment's presence in the county. Our Board of Trustees has had discussions about our ability to continue some of our projects, and our recent monthly business meetings have barely had the required number of members, if that, to enable us to officially conduct business.

One of the duties of the Junior Vice Commandant is to chair a membership committee and to recruit Marines to join the Detachment. We're actively recruiting new members and some of our members regularly encounter Marines as we go about our daily lives here in Oconee County.

So, my message is pretty simple.

We need the active participation of more of the Detachment's members. Not complaining, just pointing out a reality. We need prospective members to learn what the Detachment provides to the community and to be willing to join our ranks. You'll recall the iconic slogan used for years by the U.S. Marine Corps – We're Looking For a Few Good Men! Well, we are, and we can add women to that slogan as well.

We recently sent a message to the prospective members for whom we have contact information and following is a summary of that message.

Dear Marines,

I want to update you on a few things related to the activities of the Marine Corps League, Detachment #1131. We value you as a prospective member of the League and still want you to consider membership in the League. We've been sending the Tip of the Spear newsletter to you to keep you informed, so we hope you've taken time to read it each month.

1. We've been meeting on the third Tuesday of each month since early fall 2020, although a few our current members have been cautious about attending. We respect that caution, so we require everyone to wear masks and to stay distanced from one another at our meetings, and we've not had a meal catered for those meetings since early spring. We're hoping as we all get the COVID vaccines that we can once again get all our members together and enjoy some hospitality.

2. The Board of Trustees met February 2 and we discussed having our prospective members attend a special meeting or event so we can share news about our activities and give you a chance to learn more about membership in the League. You're all aware of our Toys for Tots campaign that our Detachment conducts, and as the January newsletter pointed out, we had a very good result this past year making

sure that hundreds of kids in Oconee County and parts of Pickens County had a bright Christmas.

3. We're considering having some type of social opportunity, either a lunch or late afternoon gathering with refreshments, in March, at which time we would make a few, brief presentations about the League.

4. We also have a Detachment Business Meeting on **March 16 at 6:30 pm** at the American Legion Hut in Seneca, and we'd like to think that could be a good time to welcome you to meet some of our Detachment members.

5. We will participate in a special annual event on **March 25 in Walhalla**, as we hold the **Medal of Honor Day** to honor SSgt Lewis G. Watkins, our Detachment's namesake. SSgt Watkins is the only Oconee County native who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor, and his medal is held and displayed in the Oconee Military Museum at Patriots Hall in Walhalla. This event is open to the public, and the time and location will be announced very soon.

6. On **April 20 at 6:30 pm**, we'll hold our monthly Detachment Business meeting and we'll be electing the Detachment officers for the coming year.

We want and need you to join the League as a member if you are at all interested. All we ask is that you join us for our monthly business meeting on every third Tuesday, and occasionally volunteer to participate in some of our activities. The annual membership fee from March 1 to June 30 is \$30 or \$35 for the rest of the year. We're certainly not looking to get rich from new memberships, so becoming a member is very affordable.

To learn a bit more about the League, look at our website at [Marine Corps League- Lewis Watkins Detachment \(mcl1131.org\)](http://Marine Corps League- Lewis Watkins Detachment (mcl1131.org)). Please think about the upcoming opportunities listed above. I'll follow-up with you later this month to update you on our plans. Please call or email me if you have any questions. In the meantime, Semper Fi!

*Steve Slagle*

Junior Vice Commandant  
MCL Detachment #1131  
[Steves3309@gmail.com](mailto:Steves3309@gmail.com)



**Bill Thompson**  
**Judge Advocate**

Greetings from the Judge Advocate's "bench". I sincerely hope that you and your Families are well as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to linger. All of us must remain diligent in protecting others and ourselves by wearing masks, frequently washing our hands, and social distancing. Fortunately, Judge Advocate issues from Marine Corps League headquarters have been non-existent as well as the Department in Columbia.

I wish to remind everyone that Lewis G. Watkins, Det. 1131 continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month!

In closing, I ask each Member to remember the Pledge of Allegiance we used to recite in School every day, the Oath we took when we joined the Marine Corps, the Oath we took when joining the Marine Corps League, and most importantly, our Faith in GOD! It appears our great Country will be facing many changes, but let's remember what the "Founding Fathers" established and why.

Semper Fi,

*Bill Thompson*



## 2020 Marine of the Year

Eligible candidates for the *Marine of the Year* Award must be a regular member of Detachment #1131. They should be clearly exceptional in all that they do, should be committed to the success of the Detachment, and should work in concert with all the members of the Detachment.

Prior recipients of the Award are not eligible for second award. Nominations currently are made by previous recipients of the Marine of the Year Award but can be submitted by any member of the Detachment. Nominations should be submitted to "Skip" Wakeman, current chairman of the Marine of the Year nominating committee

This is a list of the Marine of the Year recipients in Detachment #1131.

2004	Joseph "Joe" Stancil (Deceased)
2005	Clint Morgan (Deceased)
2006	Charley Butts
2007	Jacques Macy
2008	Charles Brickett
2009	James "Jim" Stone (Transferred)
2010	Timothy "Tim" Callahan
2011	Wayne Smith (Deceased)
2012	Robert "Bob" Barker
2013	<i>None Awarded</i>
2014	Clarence "Del" Williams
2015	Howard Barefoot
2016	Perry Paradise
2017	Rhett Keaton
2018	Michelle Stephens
2019	Argyle "Skip" Wakeman
2020	<i>To be awarded in May 2021</i>

Unlike other awards, the Marine of the Year Award is voted on solely by past Detachment recipients of the Marine of the Year Award. The most recent Detachment recipient of the Marine of the Year Award chairs this committee.

"Skip" Wakeman is the most recent recipient of the award and will serve as the Chairman of the Marine of the Year Award Committee. "Skip" Wakeman will hold a meeting of all active Marines of the Year on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at the American Legion Hut. All current members of the Detachment's Marine of the Year organization are requested to attend the meeting and nominate and elect a Marine of the Year for 2020.

## Comparison of Toys For Tots programs

### For 2019 and 2020

2019 Toys For Tots Campaign			
	AGES	MALE	FEMALE
	0 to 2	16	11
	3 to 6	115	119
	7 to 9	80	84
	10 to 14	108	104
	15+	43	63
	Totals	362	381
	# of Families	Males	Females
Central	27	35	47
Clemson Head Start	31	44	41
Clemson Little John	16	21	26
Code Learning Center	4	4	7
Detachment	8	16	17
Guardian Ad Lidum	0	0	0
Nehemiah Baptist Church	1	18	13
Pendleton	39	51	52
Safe Harbor	0	0	0
Salem	10	16	14
Smiling Angel's Day-care	24	25	28
Smooth, Inc.	6	13	17
Walhalla Women's Club	49	68	64
West Union	6	11	16
Westminster Baptist Church	36	49	44
Totals	257	371	386

**Comparison of Toys For Tots programs  
For 2019 and 2020**

**This Day in Marine Corps History**

	2020 Toys For Tots Campaign		
	AGES	MALE	FEMALE
	0 to 2	36	28
	3 to 6	103	95
	7 to 9	84	72
	10 to 14	94	104
	15+	36	46
	Totals	353	345
	# of Families	Males	Females
Central	9	10	16
Clemson Head Start	10	15	14
Clemson Little John	11	17	20
Code Learning Center	2	2	2
Detachment	25	28	28
Guardian Ad Lidum	1	22	25
Nehemiah Baptist Church	10	16	8
Pendleton	38	43	52
Safe Harbor	0	0	0
Salem	18	20	25
Smiling Angel's Day-care	24	20	20
Smooth, Inc.	13	15	15
Walhalla Women's Club	57	75	61
West Union	13	18	14
Westminster Baptist Church	32	52	45
Totals	263	353	345

**2 February 1944:** The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

**6 February 1968:** Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

**17 February 1967:** The first full day of Operation DECKHOUSE VI, which lasted until 3 March, was conducted near Quang Ngai city. The Special Landing Force (BLT Y4 and HMM-363) accounted for 280 enemy killed.

**23 February 1945:** Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag. Within an hour, the patrol reached the rim of the crater. the small American flag was attached to an iron pipe and raised over the island.

**24 February 1991:** The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

**28 February 1991:** Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease- fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history .A total of 24 Marines were killed in action during the Gulf War

## **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

<b><u>Time &amp; Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event/Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Coordinator</u></b>	<b><u>Uniform</u></b>
6:30 pm Tuesday February 16, 2021	Detachment Business Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic
8:00 am Tuesday March 2, 2021	Trustee's Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	None
6:30 pm Tuesday March 16, 2021	Detachment Business Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic
11:00 am Thursday March 25, 2021	Medal of Honor Day	Veterans Memorial County Court House Walhalla, SC	Robert Walker	Red Blazer
6:30 pm Tuesday April 16, 2021	Trustee's Meeting	American Legion Hut 575 N. Fairplay St. Seneca, SC 29678	Robert Walker	Basic

Postage

Lewis G. Watkins Detachment #11321, MCL  
Editor Del Williams  
912 Stamp Creek Road  
Salem, South Carolina 29676